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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/359,793 07/26/99 YAMADA

Y P7156-9038

EXAMINER

MM91/0620
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FLETCHER, M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2837

DATE MAILED:

06/20/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/359,793

Applicant(s)

Yamada et al.

Examiner
Marlon Fletcher

Art Unit
2837



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 22, 2001

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marx (5,734,731).

As recited in claims 1 and 7, Marx discloses an audio signal processing apparatus capable of changing the tempo of an input audio signal, said apparatus comprising: magnification designating means (36) capable of designating a plurality of different magnifications as discussed in column 6, lines 48-51, and column 9, lines 54-61; means capable of automatically detecting beats per minute of the input audio signal or a beat period of the input audio signal, changing said beats per minute or said beat period in accordance with a magnification designated by the magnification designating means, and changing the tempo of the input audio signal in accordance with the changed beats per minute or the changed beat period as discussed in column 9, lines 35-45 and lines 54-61, and as seen in figure 4.

As recited in claim 2, Marx discloses an audio signal processing apparatus, wherein manual designating means is provided for designating any optional value serving as a beats per minute and a beat period as discussed in column 9, lines 54-61.

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As recited in claim 3, Marx discloses an audio signal processing, wherein fine adjustment means is provided to effect a fine adjustment on a beats per minute and a beat period as discussed in column 6, lines 12-19 and lines 48-51 and as seen in figure 2B.

As recited in claim 4, Marx discloses an audio signal processing apparatus, wherein indicators are provided to indicate beats per minute and a beat period as discussed in column 6, lines 15-19.

As recited in claim 5, Marx discloses an audio signal processing apparatus, wherein a mixer (10) is provided such that a changed tempo audio signal generated by changing the tempo of said audio signal may be mixed with said input audio signal, thereby producing a newly formed audio signal as discussed in column 4, lines 24-37.

As recited in claim 6, Marx discloses an audio signal processing apparatus, wherein mixing ratio adjusting means is provided to adjust a mixing ratio, when said changed tempo audio signal generated by changing the tempo of said input audio signal is mixed with said input audio signal, thereby producing a newly formed audio signal as discussed in column 5, lines 41-59 and column 8, lines 7-12.

As recited in claim 8, Marx discloses an audio signal processing apparatus, wherein the input audio signal comprises an analog signal (21), the analog signal is converted into a digital signal at A/D converter (24), a signal level changing period of the digital signal is detected, and a plurality of level changing periods are automatically counted so as to automatically measure a BPM of the input audio signal as discussed in column 9, lines 35-45 and lines 55-61.

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Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marlon Fletcher whose telephone number is (703) 308-0848. The examiner can normally be reached on [redacted] from [redacted] to [redacted].

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Nappi, can be reached on (703) 308-3370. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

MTE

June 17, 2001


MARLON T. FLETCHER
PATENT EXAMINER